



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

---

*615 Chestnut Street*

*Suite 1250*

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476*

*(215) 861-8200*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2005

**PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF “LATIN KINGS” CHARGED IN  
RACKETEERING CONSPIRACY**

**Seventeen Charged With Racketeering Activity Including Murder,  
Kidnaping, Assault, And Drug Distribution**

PHILADELPHIA – United States Attorney Patrick L. Meehan and F.B.I. Special Agent-In-Charge Jack Eckenrode today announced the filing of a 26-count indictment<sup>1</sup> charging 17 defendants as members or supervisors who participated in a criminal enterprise known as “The Philadelphia Lion Tribe,” a local chapter of the “Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation” (ALKQN, or “Latin Kings”). The indictment charges William Sosa, a/k/a “King Homicide,” as the Pennsylvania state leader, or “Inca,” of the ALKQN, and Jonathan Santana, a/k/a “King Terror” as the leader of the Philadelphia Lion Tribe. Also charged are Aaron Martinez, a/k/a “King Life,” Edwin Irizarry, a/k/a “King Penguin,” Michael J. Garcia, Jr., a/k/a “King Tiger,” Joseph Wallenberg, a/k/a “King Smiley,” Alex Melendez, a/k/a “King A.M.,” Angel Aviles, a/k/a “Len Vando,” a/k/a “King Cano,” Clement Garcia, a/k/a “King K.R.,” Elvis Ortiz, “King Elvis,” Ray Melendez, a/k/a “King Silence,” Roberto Rosado, a/k/a “King Fester,” Angel Serrano, a/k/a “King Pleasure,” Leyda Rey-Gonzalez, a/k/a “Queen Heart,” a/k/a “China,” Oscar Bermudez, a/k/a “King Fat Joe,” Rocioleen Resto, a/k/a “Queen Legend,” and Reyes Sanchez, a/k/a “King Rey.” Fifteen of the defendants are charged in Count 1 with conspiring to participate in the affairs of a racketeering (RICO) enterprise, under Title 18, United States Code, Section 1962(d).

“This organization represents itself as a law-abiding, benevolent social group,” said Meehan. “However, as the indictment alleges, those claims are merely camouflage for what this enterprise really is: a well-structured gang of thugs that deals in drug trafficking, murder, assault, kidnaping, robbery, rape, and more.”

The defendants are charged with participating in crimes involving murder, kidnaping, drug trafficking, and robbery. Counts Two, Three, Five, Thirteen, Fifteen, Eighteen, Nineteen, Twenty-One, Twenty-Four, and Twenty-Six charge various defendants with separate conspiracies and attempts to commit murder in aid of racketeering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(a)(5). Count Seven charges that defendants Sosa, Alex Melendez, Elvis Ortiz, Ray Melendez, and Oscar Bermudez conspired and agreed to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute more than 1000 grams of heroin within 1000 feet of a public elementary school in North

---

<sup>1</sup> An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Philadelphia, from August 2003 to March 2004, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), 860, and 846. Count eight charges that Sosa conspired with others in Philadelphia to commit a home-invasion robbery of a New Jersey drug supplier, affecting interstate commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a). Counts Nine, Eleven, and Seventeen charge kidnaping in aid of racketeering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(a)(1). Counts Ten and Twenty-Five charge conspiracy to kidnap in aid of racketeering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(a)(5). Counts Twelve and Twenty-Three charge conspiracy to maim in aid of racketeering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959(a)(6). Counts Four, Six, Fourteen, Sixteen, Twenty, and Twenty-Two charge the use of firearms during the commission of violent crimes, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c). Forfeiture of at least \$3 million in illegal proceeds is also sought.

According to the indictment, the murder conspiracies charged were the result of “Terminate On Sight” (T.O.S.) orders issued by Sosa, to the “Latin King” gang members he supervised, with the exception of Count Twenty-Six, in which Sosa himself was the intended victim of a murder conspiracy, in which Jonathan Santana, a/k/a “King Terror,” Edwin Irizarry, a/k/a “King Penguin,” Michael J. Garcia, Jr., a/k/a “King Tiger,” Joseph Wallenberg, a/k/a “King Smiley,” and Reyes Sanchez, a/k/a “King Rey,” plotted to murder Sosa.

The indictment also charges two counts of conspiracy to maim in aid of racketeering. In Count Twelve, Sosa, Aaron Martinez, a/k/a “King Life,” Alex Melendez, a/k/a “King A.M.,” Roberto Rosado, a/k/a “King Fester,” and Elvis Ortiz, a/k/a “King Elvis,” are charged with conspiring to cut off a rival Latin Kings’ hands with a machete, after he had been beaten by them, and before they agreed to murder him. The intended victim escaped. In Count Twenty-Three, Sosa and Reyes Sanchez conspired to maim a “Latin Queen” they planned to oust from the Nation, by burning all “Latin Kings” tattoos off of her body. This intended victim narrowly eluded her pursuers.

While many of the murder conspiracies were either thwarted by the efforts of law enforcement before the murders were carried out, or otherwise not completed, one intended victim was not so fortunate. The indictment alleges in Counts One and Twenty-Two that Sosa, Angel Aviles, a/k/a “King Cano,” Clement Garcia, a/k/a “King K.R.,” and Edwin Irizarry, a/k/a “King Penguin,” conspired to murder a man on October 1, 2004, because the man had falsely claimed, in a North Philadelphia bar, that he was a “Latin King.” The man was taken out of the bar by the real “Latin Kings,” was beaten and shot in the head multiple times, and left dead in the street.

The indictment alleges that the “Philadelphia Lion Tribe” defendants sought to maintain their territory, power and profits through intimidation and violence. They enforced rules on members through discipline and the convening of tribunals. Punishments for violations included beatings, torture, dismemberment, stabbing, shooting, burning, and murder. Members were given “King” and “Queen” names, wore black and gold clothing and paraphernalia commonly associated with the ALKQN, obtained tattoos bearing the name “Latin Kings,” bore and used the symbol of a crown, and

communicated with phrases, slogans, and hand signals associated with the ALKQN. They convened mandatory meetings, at which dues were to be paid. Failure to attend meetings and pay dues resulted in disciplinary measures.

If convicted, Sosa faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, with a consecutive 130 years minimum mandatory term of imprisonment, lifetime supervised release, a potential \$13 million fine, and a \$2,500 special assessment. Aaron Martinez, Alex Melendez and Roberto Rosado each face life imprisonment, with a consecutive 7 years mandatory consecutive term of imprisonment. Edwin Irizarry faces life imprisonment, with a consecutive 30 years mandatory consecutive term of imprisonment. Michael J. Garcia, Jr. faces 10 years imprisonment. Jonathan Santana, Joseph Wallenberg, Ray Melendez, Angel Serrano, and Reyes Sanchez each face life imprisonment, with a consecutive 5 years mandatory consecutive term of imprisonment. Angel Aviles and Clement Garcia each face life imprisonment, with a consecutive 10 years mandatory consecutive term of imprisonment. Elvis Ortiz faces life imprisonment, with a consecutive 32 years mandatory consecutive term of imprisonment. Leyda Rey-Gonzalez faces 30 years imprisonment. Oscar Bermudez faces life imprisonment, plus ten years imprisonment. Rokeleen Resto faces life imprisonment. All face substantial fines and forfeiture.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Police Department, with the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI's Allentown, Atlantic City, and Chicago offices, the Chicago Police Department, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, the Pennsylvania State Police, and the Vineland, Millville, and Trenton, New Jersey Police Departments. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney David E. Troyer.

#### INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
William Sosa, a/k/a "King Homicide"	Lee Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 25
Jonathan Santana, a/k/a "King Terror"	Scattergood Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 19
Aaron Martinez, a/k/a "King Life"	North Howard Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 33
Edwin Irizarry, a/k/a "King Penguin"	North Hope Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 26
Michael J. Garcia, Jr., a/k/a "King Tiger"	Chicago, Illinois	Age 25

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Joseph Wallenberg, a/k/a "King Smiley"	Timbercreek Drive Yorkville, Illinois	Age 30
Alex Melendez, a/k/a "King A.M."	Philadelphia, PA	Age 25
Angel Aviles, a/k/a "Len Vando," a/k/a "King Cano"	Philadelphia, PA	Age 35
Clement Garcia, a/k/a "King K.R."	Philadelphia, PA	Age 31
Elvis Ortiz, a/k/a "King Elvis"	Philadelphia, PA	Age 24
Ray Melendez, a/k/a "King Silence"	North Mutter Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 29
Roberto Rosado, a/k/a "King Fester"	West Walnut Road Vineland, NJ	Age 25
Angel Serrano, a/k/a "King Pleasure"	Philadelphia, PA	Age unknown
Leyda Rey-Gonzalez, a/k/a "China," a/k/a "Queen Heart"	Philadelphia, PA	Age 20
Oscar Bermudez, a/k/a "King Fat Joe"	North 8th Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 29
Rocleen Resto, a/k/a "Queen Legend"	North Mutter Street Philadelphia, PA	Age 27
Reyes Sanchez, a/k/a "King Rey"	Philadelphia, PA	Age 20

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA  
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact:**

**RICH MANIERI  
Media Contact  
215-861-8525**

*COPIES OF NEWS MEMOS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/pae>*